



CALPEEK

CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

(213) 659-0205

VOL. XII
No. 15

APR 16, 1990

CAMPAIGN 1990: SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS.

Editor's note: Here's a brief report and analysis of 3 special elections held Apr. 10 in L.A. and San Diego Counties. There were no surprises in either of the State Senate specials. Demo Assemblyman Charles Calderon walked away with the open 26th S.D., while GOP Assemblyman Frank Hill had no problem winning the open 31st S.D. But in the special to replace Lucy Killea in the 78th Assembly District down in San Diego, a BIG SURPRISE...

...Hey Ross. Wake up. You MAY have a winner in GOP Assembly candidate Jeff Marston, the young staffer who was almost totally ignored by the Republican establishment in San Diego. No more. Marston is now the FRONTRUNNER to win Killea's seat...

...The frontrunner prior to the special was Demo Mike Gotch, a popular former San Diego Councilman. But after last week's election results, who knows? Most figured Gotch would fall just short of winning a majority vote. How wrong can you be???

...Unofficial results give Marston about 36%, compared to only 29.6% for Gotch and 15.5% for another Democrat, Dep. AG Howard Wayne, who finished stronger than many had thought. And even though two of Marston's main GOP rivals stopped campaigning, Helen Rowe and Jane Ramsaw picked up 7% between them...

...Big winners were consultants Anderson & Kern and Sara Katz, who ran Marston's campaign on a shoe-string budget, with lots of old fashioned campaign techniques, such as walking precincts, something the Gotch campaign never did --- or did so little of that it wasn't effective. Gotch probably outspent Marston by 3 or 4 to 1...

...Consultant John Kern was convinced from

the very beginning that Gotch was NOT the best candidate. "He was never that strong and yet the insiders refused to believe he was weak. Gotch is also lazy and he has high negatives," Kern said...

...Even the ABSENTEE BALLOTS present a poor picture of Gotch. In ABs, Marston got 32.5% to 31.3% for Gotch. And remember, most of the ABs were IN HAND before the negative hits began flying in Gotch's direction. June 5th isn't that far away and unless Willie Brown and the Demos repair the campaign, GOP Assembly Leader Ross Johnson will be headed into the November election with a candidate whose ballot title reads, "ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 78th A.D." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CA DEMO PARTY CONVENTION.

Editor's note: One of the oldest political proverbs goes like this: Republicans don't win elections, Democrats only lose them. Or maybe it's the other way around. In any event, Calif. Democrats gathered at their annual CDP statewide convention in L.A. Apr. 6-8 and here is CALPEEK's analysis...

- WAS THERE A BLOOD BATH? - CA Democrats wouldn't have any fun at a convention if they couldn't fight with each other. And yes, there was plenty of fighting because the delegates were allowed to make pre-primary ENDORSEMENTS for the first time since 1913. Had CDP Chair Jerry Brown had his way, however, there would have been NO endorsements. Brown felt the process was too divisive. Bottomline: the fighting was hard, especially between Demo AG candidates Ira Reiner and Arlo Smith, but all in all there was NO blood bath...

- KEY ISSUE - There is little doubt that Calif. Democrats believe abortion and the question of CHOICE is the critical election

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issue this year. In just about every pitch or speech to Demo convention delegates, candidates emphasized the PRO-CHOICE line above almost all other issues. And there was some tension between AG John Van de Kamp and former S.F. Mayor Dianne Feinstein on how CHOICE was impacted by Prop. 115, the Speedy Trial Initiative. Vdk is opposed to 115, while DiFi is in favor...

...Another example of how important the CHOICE issue was to delegates came on the final day of the convention when backers of former San Diego Councilwoman Celia Ballesteros, a PRO-CHOICE assembly Democratic candidate, came within an eyelash of pulling a regional endorsement away from incumbent PRO-LIFE Demo Assemblyman Peter Chacon of San Diego. Ballesteros lost this fight, but she got lots of publicity and some insiders think she has a fair shot at upsetting Chacon in June...

- **TREE HUGGERS** - Although supporters of environmental causes may have taken a rear seat to CHOICE, backers of "Big Green" and "Earth Day" were certainly pushing their respective causes. In fact, Big Green, (aka the EPA Initiative now in circulation for the November ballot), became a convention issue when DiFi said she wouldn't take a stand on the plan until it was certified for the ballot, which is a given. She did admit that certain sections of Big Green are troubling to her. She'd really like to duck Big Green altogether...

- **DOES A CDP ENDORSEMENT HELP?** - The truth is the typical CDP delegate is much more liberal than rank & file Calif. Demos. And this is well known. Therefore, some think the endorsement carries as much negative baggage as help. Others disagree. In the lesser publicized races, such as for Insurance Commissioner, there's no doubt that Bill Press's 64% endorsement win will go a long way. With five solid contenders in the contest, few thought that any one IC candidate would garner 60%. The same holds true for the Board of Equalization, where tax attorney Brad Sherman won a 65% vote for Office 2, trouncing former Assemblyman Lou Papan of Daly City. Sherman, who was described by a delegate as a "nerd with knowledge," reminds one of former BOE member Richard Nevins. Nevins was nerdy too, but he kept on winning elections...

...But for high visibility offices such as governor, LG and AG, the CDP's endorsement isn't all that critical. It would mean something if the CDP had the funds to back up its endorsement with a Statewide slate card to Demos. But money is scarce...

- **PARTY PLATFORM** - Democrats finally got smart. The platform has very few (if any) smoking guns. There's none of that stuff about opposing the death penalty and on one of the hotter subjects in recent years, the Middle East, Democrats for Israel got their way on language in the 1990 platform. A big win for AIPAC...

...As for the death penalty, if there's a CALPEEK reader who doesn't know that DiFi was booed by CDP delegates after repeating her position in favor of capital punishment, then you're living on the moon. And yes, the booing made news, just like DiFi's campaign managers hoped it would. Give Feinstein a gold star for her speech. The VdK speech, which followed DiFi's, was good too, but ran a little long...

- **THE BOXER REBELLION** - There's little doubt U.S. Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-S.F.) has big plans for 1992. She wants U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston's job. The fiesty congresswoman was all over the CDP convention, pressing the flesh and pushing her two top priorities: VdK and her PRO-CHOICE position. She even managed to anger the unflappable Jerry Brown with a story she told to delegates about how Brown refused to let her address the convention on the question of choice. Brown was NOT a happy camper when informed about BB's statement. Jerry has a different version. Regardless, it is obvious these two may be headed for a confrontation in 1992 — if not sooner...

...Why does Boxer support VdK over DiFi? In S.F. politics, endorsements & alliances aren't forgiven or forgotten. In 1982, DiFi supported Louise Rene over BB in the Demo primary for congress. Why does L.A. City Atty. Jim Hahn back DiFi over VdK? Same thing. VdK backed Hahn's opponent in 1985, attorney Lisa Specht. Pay back time is what the pros call it...

- **CRANSTON'S FANS** - Clearly the senior senator still has many loyal supporters in the Calif. Demo Party, but the response to Cranston at both the Women's Caucus and the

next day when he addressed all the delegates was not like 1986, when he was the lib darling of the convention. Even Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy got a BETTER response from delegates...

- **BEST CAMPAIGN PROMISE** - The hands down winner is Irene Allert, a Demo candidate in the 38th A.D.(retiring GOP Assemblywoman Marian La Follette's seat). Allert is a PRO-CHOICE candidate who is a businesswoman and educator. In education, she designs hands-on science programs for K-9 students. Her promise: "When I go to Sacramento, I PROMISE to teach all the GOP, PRO-LIFE, anti-familiy planning lawmakers how babies are made." Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN 1990: RUNNING FOR COUNTY SHERIFF.

Editor's note: All county sheriffs except S.F.'s Michael Hennessey are up for reelection in June. Of the 57, 21 are unopposed, while 21 have challengers. The last time CALPEEK reported on sheriffs' contests, 11 incumbents had decided NOT to seek reelection. The figure has now jumped to 15. Here is CALPEEK's update...

...As CALPEEK readers will notice from the BALLOT TITLES and descriptions, most of the candidates running for county sheriff are CALIF. law enforcement officials. That's because SB 1356, a new State law, declares candidates have to meet certain basic standards, including 2-years as a Calif. peace officer. There is NO mention of FEDERAL peace officers, such as FBI/DEA or U.S. Marshals. And this is where the new law may have some constitutional problems...

- **SAN BERNARDINO** - This is the county where the new law may have its biggest impact. With Sheriff Floyd Tidwell stepping down, the field includes 3 candidates: Undersheriff Dick Williams, former Sheriff's Capt. Charles Callahan and Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Sam Cicchino. A private citizen filed suit in San Berdu Superior Court challenging Cicchino's right to be on the ballot, under the new law. As CALPEEK went to press, a judge ruled in Cicchino's favor and so the 19-year federal lawman WILL be on the June ballot. Sources were unclear whether the other side would appeal to a higher court. The Apr. 11 ruling may have an impact other sheriffs races in Calif...

- **STANISLAUS COUNTY** - The betting is that Modesto Police Lt. Burl Condit, brother of U.S. Rep. Gary Condit(D-Ceres), will defeat Sheriff's Capt. Les Weidman in the contest to replace retiring Sheriff Jim Trevena. Condit ran against Trevena four years ago and narrowly lost. Condit again has backing of the DSA (deputy sheriffs association) and the local PORAC unit...

- **SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY** - Sheriff John Zunino had filed all the necessary papers and was off and running. But not long ago he became ill and announced he was backing out of the race. PORAC and the DSA are backing Sheriff's Capt. Baxter Dunn over CHP Officer Roger Huckins Jr. Zunino's name will still be on the ballot...

- **SAN DIEGO COUNTY** - Sheriff John Duffy had his share of enemies. In the end, he decided 5 terms were enough. Except for some early fireworks, the race to replace Duffy has been low keyed. There are five challengers. The heir apparent is Asst. Sheriff Jack Drown, who has the support of Duffy - for what it's worth, as well as support from the DSA and local PORAC unit...

...Drown has also raised the most money. Consultant Nikki Symington is managing Drown's campaign. Police Chief Vince Jimno of Escondido and Sheriff's Capt. Jim Roache, along with Drown, are considered the ones to watch. Former San Diego Police Chief Ray Hoobler is also running, but is NOT considered as formidable as he once was, some 15 years ago. Finally, there is James Messenger, a senior police officer from Carlsbad. CALPEEK insiders agree that it would be almost impossible for any of the top three candidates to win outright in June...

...CALPEEK will continue this story next week with more reports from around the State. Stay tuned...

1st ROUND OF SPRING CITY ELECTIONS OVER.

Editor's note: A number of cities, mostly in So. Calif., held municipal elections for mayor, council and ballot propositions on Apr. 10. Here is a brief report...

- **LONG BEACH** - Calif.'s 5th largest city will see a June 5 runoff for mayor between incumbent Ernie Kell and Councilman Tom

Clark. Kell got 43.4% to 40.8% for Clark, but Kell outspent Clark by about 4-to-1. Directions handled Kell's campaign, while consultant Rick Taylor is helping Clark. There were 5 others in the race, so a run-off was predicted by most. Also facing a runoff is incumbent Councilman Evan Anderson Braude, step-son of U.S. Rep. Glenn Anderson (D-San Pedro). Braude got 42.1% and will face William Stovall, who got 28%. Taylor also ran Stovall's campaign. City voters also approved a measure to set up a POLICE COMMISSION - 57.6% to 42.3%...

- **WEST HOLLYWOOD** - This upscale city returned Councilman John Heilman for another term and elected two new councilmembers, Babbette Lang and Sal Guarriello. The negatives flew in all directions, with Lang being on the receiving end of some very unfair accusations. Skelton, Grover & Assoc. were big winners...

- **TEMPLE CITY** - Three incumbents, Mary Lou Swain, Kenneth Gillander and Tom Atkins were DUMPED by voters and replaced by new members Bobbie McGowan, Cathe Wilson and Mary Manning...

- **CULVER CITY** - Voters here approved a slow growth/building height limitation measure by a 61% to 38% margin and reelected Councilmember Jozelle Smith. Newest councilman is Mike Balkman...

- **MAYORS** elected or reelected include Don Dear of Gardena, Hugh Smith of Avalon, Wm. "Pete" Knight of Palmdale, Don McMillen of El Monte, Bette Lowes of Baldwin Park and Harold Hofmann of Lawndale...

CAMPAIGN 1990: CONSULTANTS' SCORECARD.
Editor's note: Here's a brief rundown on consultants and campaigns...

- Chuck Levin has signed up to run U.S. Rep. Marty Martinez's campaign. Levin is already aboard Dianne Martinez's Demo primary for the 59th A.D. A father/daughter combo...

- Former CA GOP exec. director John Hoy will handling day-to-day management for Judge Gregory O'Brien's campaign for L.A. County Supervisor. Arnold Steinberg is handling polling in that campaign, while Huckaby-Rodriguez will do the mail...

- Demo congressional candidate Ralph Waite signs Whitehurst & Nelson to run his campaign in the 37th C.D. Dan Chavez, another one of those field reps let go by the CDP, will be working with W&N on the Waite campaign...

- Rob Rice (California Communicators) has been hired to run Ventura Co. Sup. Vicky Howard's reelection bid...

- Marc Litchman, U.S. Rep. Howard Berman's long-time top AA, has left the public sector for a campaign management job. He is overseeing Impact 2000 - that's the Demo congressional campaign against Props. 118 and 119. He'll also be doing some fundraising work for U.S. Rep. Mel Levine (D-Santa Monica). Litchman's new address is 291 S. La Cienega Blvd., Ste. 203, Beverly Hills, CA 90211 (213)652-0527...

- Stephen Sulkes is aboard Stoorza, Ziegaus & Metzger's L.A. PR/PA/campaign management team...

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- **THE WESSELL COMPANY** seeks full-time Associate. Accounts throughout Southern Calif. Much grass-roots community-based work and writing. Excellent communication and organizational skills required. Computer experience helpful. Campaign experience a plus. Must have own car. Some evenings and weekends. Contact: Laura Olhasso, vice president (818)567-0938...

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